

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13th, 2021

The Honorable Robert S. Adler
Acting Chairman
Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Acting Chairman Adler:

I write regarding the recent death of a child in an incident involving a Peloton Tread+ treadmill.¹ As you know, home exercise equipment has increased in popularity during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic of 2019 (COVID-19). With families spending more time at home and together, home exercise equipment dangers are especially worrisome, and any potential risks to consumers and their families must be carefully scrutinized. While the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has announced it is “investigating” the incident,² more than three weeks later, additional context or guidance for consumers has yet to be made available from either the CPSC or Peloton. The CPSC must be able to act nimbly in identifying and responding to emerging hazards. In addition to the absence of publicly available information about the child fatality, other publicly reported incidents involving the same treadmill model suggest potential obstacles preventing the Commission from taking swift action to protect the public.

As you know, a severe injury involving the Peloton Tread+ was reported to the CPSC’s public product safety information database, SaferProducts.gov, in February.³ According to the incident report, a three-year old boy was hospitalized with “significant brain injury” after being found by his father trapped under the treadmill.⁴ The boy had tread marks on his back matching the slats of the treadmill and had to be resuscitated.⁵

¹ Peloton Support, *A Note from Peloton CEO John Foley about Tread+* (support.onepeloton.com/hc/en-us/articles/360058677091-A-Note-from-Peloton-CEO-John-Foley-about-Tread-) (accessed Apr. 10, 2021).

² Consumer Product Safety Commission (@USCPSC), Twitter (Mar. 19, 2021, 11:35 AM) (twitter.com/USCPSC/status/1372934829470269451).

³ SaferProducts.gov, *Incident Report Details* (Mar. 18, 2021) (www.saferproducts.gov/PublicSearch/Detail?ReportId=3054628) (Report Number 20210213-97C35-2147365910).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

In another incident reported by *Inside Edition*, a two-year old was pulled under the same treadmill model while his mother was exercising, resulting in burns to his face, back, and neck.⁶ The same segment also played harrowing video footage from a separate incident in which an exercise ball is sucked under a Peloton Tread+ while a woman is working out with her young daughter just feet away.⁷ Even without the full breadth of incident data that the CPSC might have, these few incidents suggest a problematic hazard pattern that warrants urgent action by the agency to prevent further injury or death.

As Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce and pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §2055(a)(7), I respectfully request a detailed status report regarding the CPSC's investigation into reports of injury involving the Peloton Tread+ treadmill and efforts to inform the public of any unreasonable risk of injury and death from the product. In the report, please include a description of any factors (e.g. Section 6(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act,⁸ Commission makeup or structure, availability of resources, statutory limitations, etc.) that have slowed or delayed the agency's investigation and its efforts to publicize unreasonable risks to consumers.

Please provide a response no later than April 27, 2021. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Schakowsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jan" being particularly prominent.

Jan Schakowsky

Chair, Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

⁶ *Dangers of Children Around Home Gyms Brought to Forefront After Peloton Accidents*, Inside Edition (Mar. 19, 2021) (www.insideedition.com/dangers-of-children-around-home-gyms-brought-to-forefront-after-peloton-accidents-65619).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ 15 U.S.C. §2055(b).